

MICHAEL A. ARCURI
24TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON RULES

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Washington, DC 20515-3224

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August 5, 2009

Mr. W. Ross Ashley, III, Asst. Administrator
Grant Programs Directorate
Department of Homeland Security / FEMA
800 K Street NW
Washington, DC 20472-3620

Re: Otter Lake Fire Company Station Construction Grant

Dear Mr. Ashley,

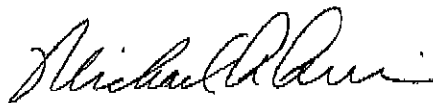
I would like to express my support of the Otter Lake Fire Company grant request to construct a new firehouse for their community. Located on the southwest end of the Adirondack Park, Otter Lake's current firehouse, an old schoolhouse from the 1920's, is overdue for renovating.

The current bays, built to house fire trucks in 1950, do not accommodate the size of today's fire equipment, offering only a few inches of clearance to the building's support columns. In addition fire department members are prohibited access to equipment compartments on the trucks without pulling them outside, which in the winter months in the Adirondacks can be treacherous. Due to property constraints, there is no additional room for more building add-ons. Also, the driveway is single lane and below the grade of the highway. This presents very dangerous situations when the fire trucks enter and exit the highway especially in the winter months.

Otter Lake Fire Company has worked for ten years towards a new fire station. They have purchased land, and have completed and paid for all site preparation including testing and permits. Their new location, slightly above highway grade, offers excellent visibility to the highway. Besides having appropriate space for fire equipment and fire boat, it will be energy efficient and handicap accessible, allowing local residents and vacationers a much-needed emergency shelter. A construction grant will award them the necessary funds to complete their project.

Please direct any follow-up on this issue to my Auburn District Office. Thank you again for the opportunity to indicate my support of this worthy and deserving request.

Sincerely,



Michael A. Arcuri
Member of Congress

MAA/cc